

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 10610 051516Z

41

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 051450Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0892

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 10610

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, SA

SUBJECT: SAG CONCERN OVER ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: JIDDA 5135

EMBASSY WILL MAKE POINTS CONTAINED IN REFTEL (REGARDING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EMPEROR'S FATE AND POSSIBLE SAG ASSISTANCE) TO APPROPRIATE ETHIOPIANS IF AND WHEN SUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES ARISE. WE WILL ALSO NOTE UNDER APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT EXECUTION OF EMPEROR WOULD HAVE IMPACT IN US WHICH COULD WELL HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON US ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. HOWEVER, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO EXERCISE DISCRETION IN MAKING SUCH REMARKS. TO TAKE TOO OBVIOUS AN INITIATIVE IN RAISING THESE SUBJECTS WOULD BE CONSTRUED BY MANY INTERLOCUTORS SIMPLY AS AN INEXCUSABLE ACT OF INTERVENTION BY USG ON BEHALF OF EMPEROR AND THE DISCREDITED ANCIEN REGIME. WE ARE MOST RELUCTANT TO CONVEY THIS IMPRESSION BECAUSE VIRTUALLY ALL OF SUCH ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT AS EXISTS IN ETHIOPIA DERIVES FROM A BELIEF THAT THE ANCIEN REGIME, WHICH MANY EDUCATED YOUNG ETHIOPIANS HAVE DESPISED, WAS HEAVILY "SUPPORTED" BY USG, AND THAT IT OTHERWISE COULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED AS LONG AS IT DID. IN THIS CONNECTION WE NOTE THAT THERE ARE CURRENT RUMORS IN ADDIS ABABA THAT USG IS PREPARING TO AIRLIFT THE EMPEROR TO SAFETY.

WYMAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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